

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SCCT-01 /061 W

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P R 110400Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO FAA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1905

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0270

FAA FOR AIA-200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR MU

SUBJECT: FAA ASSISTANCE TO OMAN

1. ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOFF WARREN, MET WITH DGCA TO OBTAIN VIEWS ON FAA TEAM EFFECTIVENESS AND PLANS FOR EXPANSION. DGCA PLEASED WITH PROGRESS MADE AND QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE. PROBLEM AREA DISCUSSED IN SEPTTEL.
 2. NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR FUNCTIONAL CHANGE OR ADDITIONAL STAFFING AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, DGCA INDICATED STRONG POSSIBILITY FOR ENLARGEMENT OF CAAG IN FUTURE (NOT SPECIFIED) IN RESPONSE TO CIVIL AVIATION GROWTH, PARTICULARLY IN SALALAH. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD INITIATE ACTION WHEN APPROPRIATE.
 3. DIRECTION INCREASED ASSISTANCE MAY TAKE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE WOULD BE IN FORM OF AVIATION SECURITY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL TRAINING.
 4. ON BASIS OF ABOVE AND MATTER ADDRESSED IN SEPTTEL, NO DISCUSSION HELD WITH REGARD TO FINANCIAL MATTERS, WHICH IN OPINION OF EYMONERIE, WITH SUPPORT OF AMBASSADOR WOLLE, MIGHT BE MISCONCEIVED AND WOULD JEOPARDIZE VERY GOOD PROSPECTS FOR CON-
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TINUED PRESENCE. NEED FOR FAA/W IMAGINATIVE AND FAST, AL-

THOUGH WELL THOUGHT OUT, ACTION IN THIS REGARD EVIDENT FROM CONTACTS WITH EMOFF, CAAG STAFF AND PERCEPTION OF DGCA FEELINGS.

5. OMAN DGCA IS WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT EXPLOSIVE DEVICES COULD BE SMUGGLED INTO OMAN VIA AIR BAGGAGUOM HE CITED NOVEMBER 1975 EXPLOSION AT KARACHI CARGO AREA IN SUITCASE WHICH HAD BEEN MEANT FOR FLIGHT TO OMAN. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT RECENT MEA AIRLINER SABOTAGE WAS CAUSED BY BOMB IN SUITCASE WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO DETONATE IN SEEB INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. OMANGOV IS NOW INSPECTING INCOMING AS WELL AS OUTGOING LUGGAGE AND PLANS TO USE X-RAY MACHINE FOR SCREENING ALL LUGGAGE. DGCA HAS ALREADY BEEN COORDINATING WITH OMAN DIR. GEN. OF INTELLIGENCE ON PROBLEM AND REQUESTED FAA AND EMBASSY TO PASS ALONG ANY AVAILABLE INFO ON SECURITY THREATS.

6. NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP VISIT INDICATED IN NEXT 6 MONTHS.
OTHER ITEM: EYMONERIE CHANGE OF SCHEDULE AND SHORTENED TRIP TIME FRAM (PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF BRUSSELS STOP) REFLECTIVE OF NEED TO ADDRESS PRESSING QUESTIONS. EYMONERIE SENDS. WOLLE

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